

DD/R-557-63

3 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Executive Director

SUBJECT: Professionalism in the DD/R

1. As an addition to, and elaboration of, the memorandum furnished earlier concerning the outstanding aggregation of expertise in our Office of Special Activities, the following additional information can, I believe be added on to that earlier contribution.

2. Among the more significant accomplishments of this unusual group has been the development of the now famous U-2. Not only was the development itself an outstanding technological achievement going from drawing board to first flight in eight months, but no less impressive has been the professionalism demonstrated in its operation. The successful execution of the U-2 reconnaissance overflights has necessitated the finest type of team work among such specialists as physicists, electrical engineers, meteorologists, logisticians, communicators and operations planners. Thus the same element within the Agency responsible for the development itself has also had the continued responsibility for program management, product improvement, command and control.

3. Illustrating the collective expertise of this whole group of professionals has been the senior operations planning officer. This officer knows the U-2 in every respect of its design, technology and capability to such an extent that taking this knowledge coupled with the inputs of weather experts, target planners and others, he has been able to plan many hundreds of U-2 missions including alternate as well as primary routes with such skill that there has never been a flight failure due to fuel exhaustion or any other defect in planning. Indeed, his planning has been so expert that on the average fuel reserves at the end of a mission have been 10% or less of capacity manifesting a maximum realization of the aircraft's capability for each given set of circumstances.

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4. In the now famous mission failure which involved the capture of Francis Gary Powers, a member of this same group was primarily instrumental in the design, development and execution of the plan leading to his release. One member of the group spent five years in the service of the [redacted] and was able to take advantage of his [redacted] detailed knowledge of that area including the [redacted] plus a knowledge of U. S. personnel and activities both at Headquarters and in the field to achieve the coordination necessary while retaining the security of his plans. In addition to pulling together all of the affected elements within such organizations as the FBI, Attorney General's Office, Air Force, Department of State and liaison facilities abroad, he conceived and developed a plan of communications to make possible the execution of his plan. He rightly recognized that success or fiasco might rest on the question of communications. The schemes and techniques accordingly designed and tested in advance were so successful that within one minute and fifty seconds of the time Francis Gary Powers crossed the bridge in Berlin the information was in Washington.

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5. Intelligence achievements through scientific and technical means are far too numerous and varied to recount in any detail. These have included everything from very small concealed devices to large mobile platforms and major ground installations. They have covered everything from [redacted] [redacted] devices to techniques [redacted]

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6. One of the most recent and current projects that demonstrate the resourcefulness of some of the Agency's scientific intelligence officers working in collaboration with intelligence analysts and other methods of collection is one employing the use of balloons of such configuration as [redacted]

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Such an operation must of course take into account not only the technological considerations but be so conducted as to appear legitimate weather observations and avoid the arousing of suspicion or undue concern. This project is adding significantly to our knowledge of the deployment and capability of Soviet air defenses. The operational usefulness of such a project in addition to the basic intelligence of a target country's capabilities is obvious.



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Deputy Director (Research)

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